

Amendments to Claims:

1. (currently amended) A plant comprising a recombinant nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising a constitutively-active transgene capable of expressing a kinase domain of a mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase (MAPKKK) or a kinase domain thereof, wherein said ~~transgene~~ nucleic acid is expressed in said plant under the control of a promoter that is functional in a plant cell.
2. (currently amended) The plant of claim 1, wherein said ~~transgene~~ nucleic acid comprises a kinase domain which is obtained from a fungus.
3. (currently amended) The plant of claim, wherein said ~~transgene~~ nucleic acid comprises a kinase domain which is obtained from an animal.
4. (currently amended) The plant of claim 1, wherein said ~~transgene~~ nucleic acid comprises a kinase domain which is obtained from a plant.
5. (currently amended) The plant of claim 1, wherein said ~~transgene~~ nucleic acid consists essentially of said kinase domain.
6. (original) The plant of claim 1, wherein said plant is a dicot.
7. (original) The plant of claim 1, wherein said plant is a monocot.
8. (currently amended) A transgenic seed from ~~a plant~~ the plant of claim 1.

9. (currently amended) A transgenic cell from ~~a plant~~ the plant of claim 1.
10. (currently amended) A vector comprising a promoter functional in plant cells operably linked to a ~~gene encoding a~~ nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising a constitutively-active MAPKKK polypeptide or kinase domain thereof.
11. (currently amended) The vector of claim 10, wherein said vector comprises a ~~gene~~ nucleic acid encoding MAPKKK kinase domain
12. (original) The vector of claim 11, wherein said kinase domain is obtained from a plant MAPKKK.
13. (original) A cell comprising the vector of claim 10.
14. (original) The cell of claim 13, wherein said cell is a plant cell.